

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EX:LRHUNT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP. TC

SUBJ: LEASED HOUSING

REF: ABU DHABI 1546

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE GRIFFIN

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED YOUR TELEGRAM REF D AND AGREE THAT YOU HAVE MADE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO FOLLOW OUR SUGGESTIONS AS SET FORTH IN STATE 227473. IT IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT THE LANDLORD IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT A ONE YEAR ADVANCE RENTAL.

2. BASED UPON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PHIL GRIFFIN DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS WE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL OFFICER SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ABU DHABI SOONEST. THIS WAS TO BE INITIAL BUILDUP FOR FURTHER INCREASES IN STAFF AT SUCH TIME AS THE GULF SUPPLEMENT COULD BE SECURED. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS AUGMENTATION OF STAFF WE REDUCED AMERICAN POSITIONS IN SOUTH ASIA AND REPROGRAMMED THEM FROM THIS LOW COST AREA TO THE MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE GULF. THE DECISION TO SEND FAULK AND LIMBERT TO POST AT THIS TIME

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WAS PREDICATED UPON THE BELIEF THAT ADEQUATE HOUSING

WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THEM AT A COST THAT WE COULD AFFORD.

3. WE HAVE NO QUARREL WHATSOEVER WITH YOUR DETERMINATION THAT THE APARTMENTS LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED AND THAT THEY DO NOT ADEQUATELY MEET THE LONG-TERM HOUSING NEEDS OF YOUR STAFF. FURTHER WE RECOGNIZE THAT COSTS IN ABU DHABI ARE SOARING AND WE CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE ASK THAT YOU ATTEMPT TO FIND SOMETHING CHEAPER. OUR PROBLEM, SIMPLY PUT, IS THAT WE JUST DO NOT HAVE \$55,000 TO PAY THE ADVANCE RENTAL FOR TWO YEARS. AS YOU KNOW WE DO NOT YET HAVE THE BUDGET FOR THE GULF POSTS. OUR FY 1974 BUDGET HAS NOT YET PASSED THE CONGRESS AND WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH WE WILL HAVE AVAILABLE FOR THIS YEAR. FURTHER, THE SUPPLEMENT FOR THE GULF IS IN OMB AND WE CANNOT PREDICT THE AMOUNT THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE ALLOWED OR THE TIMING INVOLVED.

4. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE MUST RELUCTANTLY TURN DOWN YOUR REQUEST TO LEASE THE DETACHED HOUSES WITH TWO YEARS ADVANCED PAYMENT. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THAT YOU CAN GIVE US AND, IN FACT, IF IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS YOU BELIEVE THE CONDITIONS IN ABU DHABI TO BE SUCH THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER TRANSFERRING FAULK AND LIMBERT ELSEWHERE UNTIL THE HOUSING SITUATION CAN BE OVERCOME OR UNTIL FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATE RENTALS, WE WOULD MOST RELUCTANTLY CONSIDER SUCH ACTION. KISSINGER

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